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REPLY BRIEF  
GROUP 2831  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q79676

Yasumichi KUWAYAMA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/775,203

Group Art Unit: 2831

Confirmation No.: 1641

Examiner: Chau N. NGUYEN

Filed: February 11, 2004

For: STRUCTURE FOR WATERPROOFING TERMINAL-WIRE CONNECTING PORTION  
AND METHOD OF WATERPROOFING THE SAME

**REPLY BRIEF**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.193(b), Appellant respectfully submits this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer dated February 24, 2006. Entry of this Reply Brief is respectfully requested.

**POINTS RAISED IN EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

The Examiner's Answer continues to base the grounds of rejection on conclusory statements that find no support in the applied art. For the reasons set forth in Appellant's Appeal Brief, the rejection of the claims on appeal should be reversed. In addition, Appellant submits the following remarks addressing certain points raised by the Examiner in his Answer.

Reply Brief  
Serial No. 10/775,203  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q79676

The Examiner's rejection of the claims on appeal are based on a fundamental misunderstanding of what the prior art references actually disclose. In particular, on page 7, the Examiner states that Appellant did not provide any evidence to support the argument that hydraulic pressing cannot uniformly compress a terminal. On the other hand, the Examiner cites U.S. Patent No. 5,307,678 to Cost to support his point that hydraulic pressing can uniformly compress a tubular portion around its circumference. However, in actuality it is submitted that the Examiner has failed to satisfy his burden of showing that this important feature is taught or even suggested in the prior art. Furthermore, Appellant submits that Cost is not even of record in the subject application. If the Examiner wishes to rely on Cost in his rejection, he must reopen prosecution and formally apply it in a rejection; this reference is simply not relevant to this proceeding.

Second, in response to Appellant's argument that the apparatus 40 of Livshiz, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0016459) cannot press the wire connection portion uniformly over an entire periphery because of the U-shape of the coil 46, the Examiner states that:

*Although shown by Livshiz et al. that the lumen 50 has a little gap, this gap will be closed by a pulsed magnetic force to compress the wire connection 55.*

See, page 7 of the Examiner's Answer.

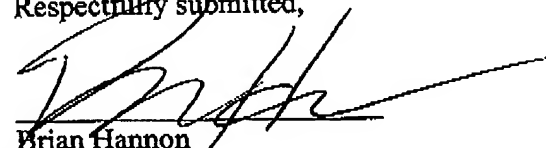
Again, however, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to cite to any evidence or prior art that supports this assertion and has, therefore, once again failed to satisfy his burden. In short, the Examiner has failed to cite any prior art which teaches or suggests the claimed invention.

Reply Brief  
Serial No. 10/775,203  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q79676

**CONCLUSION**

For the above reasons, as well as the reasons set forth in Appellant's Brief on Appeal, Appellant respectfully requests that the Board reverse the Examiner's rejections of all claims on Appeal. An early and favorable decision on the merits of this Appeal is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brian Hannon  
Registration No. 32,778

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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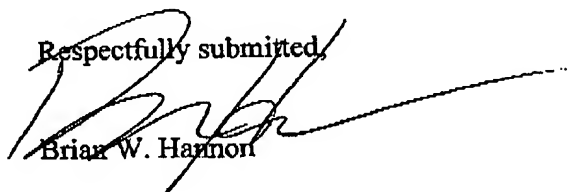
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Serial No. 10/775,203  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q79676

**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

Sir:

I hereby certify that the above identified correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Chau N. NGUYEN at the Patent and Trademark Office on April 24, 2006 at (571) 273-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Brian W. Hannon